

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of all the claims is now presented.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;
- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C; wherein when drying the molded articles, a heated and, if necessary, oxygen-reduced or oxygen-free gas stream is passed over the molded articles;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and

- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein drying takes place in a fixed bed and/or in a belt dryer.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the molded articles are dried to an overall water content of $\leq 1\%$ by wt.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;
- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;

- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 60° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the molded articles are dried at temperatures of 60 to 150°.~~

Claim 6. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the molded articles are dried at below their self-ignition temperature.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;

- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 6 hours at temperatures of 40°C up to 150°C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the molded articles are dried within 0.5 to 6 hours.~~

Claim 8. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the carbon-bearing material is wood charcoal, wood charcoal from old timber, peat coal, fruit pits, nut shells, coal coke and/or lignitic coke.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the carbon-bearing material used is carbonized via natural and/or synthetic thermal treatment of one or more carbon-bearing vegetable products.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended)

The method according to ~~in~~ claim 9, wherein the carbon-bearing material is wood charcoal and/or wood charcoal from old timber and from beechwood charcoal.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

The method according to ~~in~~ claim 1, wherein one or more aggregates are added to the carbon-bearing material and/or the binding agent.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 11, wherein KOH solution K_2CO_3 , surfactant, stearate and/or carboxymethyl cellulose are added as the aggregate.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein 100% by wt. of the carbon-bearing material is milled to a grain size of $< 60 \mu m$.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 13, wherein at least 95% by wt. of the carbon-bearing material is milled to a grain size of between 10 and $45 \mu m$.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;
- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas; and

~~The method according to claim 1,~~ wherein the water-containing binding agent is a binding agent with 10 to 50% by wt. water.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent comprising molasses;
- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

~~The method according to claim 1, wherein molasses is used as the water-containing binding agent.~~

Claim 17. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;

~~The method according to claim 1,~~

wherein coal tar, wood charcoal tar, bitumen and/or an inorganic gel is used as any non-water-containing binding agent that might be present; and

- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;

~~The method according to claim 1,~~ wherein 10 to 60% by wt. binding agent, are used relative to the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent; and

- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles,
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of mixing and shaping are carried out in one or two separate apparatuses.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the dried molded articles are carbonized at temperatures of 400 to 750° C.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water;
- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles,

~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the dried molded articles are carbonized in a three-zone torque tube; and~~

- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the dried and carbonized molded articles are activated at temperatures of 700 to 1000° C.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the dried and carbonized molded articles are activated with water vapor and/or carbon dioxide.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein the carbon-bearing materials are homogeneously mixed before, during or after milling, and that this mixture of solids is subsequently homogeneously mixed with the water-containing binding agent or the mixture of several binding agents, of which at least one contains water.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended)

A method for producing shaped, activated charcoal comprising

the following steps:

- grinding one or more carbon-bearing materials;
- homogeneously mixing the milled carbon-bearing material with a water-containing binding agent or a mixture of several binding agents;

~~The method according to claim 1,~~

wherein the binding agents, of which at least one contains water, are first homogeneously mixed with each other, and that this binding agent mixture is subsequently homogeneously mixed with the carbon-bearing material or the mixture of several carbon-bearing materials;

- shaping the mixture consisting of carbon-bearing material and binding agent into molded articles;
- drying the molded articles before carbonization to set the grain structure to up to an overall water weight of $\leq 3\%$ by wt.;
- drying the molded articles within 0.5 to 12 hours at temperatures of 40° C up to 150° C;
- carbonizing the molded articles, and
- activating the molded articles by means of an activation gas.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one already milled carbon-bearing material is used.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented)

A shaped, activated charcoal produced by a method according to claim 1.